

What is Claimed Is:

1. A lift assembly comprising:

four vertical support members;

a cradle portion which is slidably coupled to each of
5 said four support members, wherein said cradle portion is
effective to abuttingly engage a portion of an object;

a canopy portion which is disposed over said cradle
portion;

a raising and lowering assembly having a cable and a
10 pair of pulleys, wherein said cradle portion and said canopy
portion are coupled to said cable effective to lower said
canopy portion when said cradle portion is raised and to
raise said canopy portion when said cradle portion is
lowered.

15 2. The lift assembly of claim 1 wherein said cradle portion
includes four cradle sheaves and wherein a unique one of said
cradle sheaves is disposed around a unique one of said
support members.

3. The lift assembly of claim 2 further comprising four
20 canopy sheaves which are coupled to said canopy portion and
cooperate to confine said canopy portion to moving in a
vertical direction.

4. The lift assembly of claim 3 further comprising four
vertical canopy support members which are disposed parallel
25 to said vertical support members, wherein a unique one of

said canopy sheaves are slidably coupled to each of said vertical canopy support members.

5 The lift assembly of claim 3 wherein a unique one of said canopy sheaves is disposed around a unique one of said support members, and wherein said canopy sheaves are disposed above said cradle sheaves.

6. The lift assembly of claim 1 wherein said canopy portion includes a cover which is generally opaque and waterproof.

7. The lift assembly of claim 1 wherein said cradle portion
10 and said canopy portion are coupled to said cable on opposite sides of said cable and as far apart as possible.

8. The lift assembly of claim 1 wherein said cradle portion and said canopy portion each include at least four roller bearings which reduce frictional resistance as said cradle
15 portion and said canopy portion are raised and lowered.

9. The lift assembly of claim 2 wherein each of said four cradle sheaves includes at least one roller bearing assembly.

10. The lift assembly of claim 3 wherein each of said four cradle sheaves and said four canopy sheaves include at least
20 one roller bearing assembly.

11. A boatlift assembly which is effective to lift a boat in a substantially vertical direction, said boatlift assembly comprising:

a plurality of vertical support members, wherein said support members are spaced to define an outer periphery of said boatlift assembly;

a boat cradle portion which is slidably coupled to each
5 of said plurality of support members, wherein said boat cradle portion is confined to movement in a substantially vertical direction by said support members;

a movable canopy portion having an opaque and generally waterproof cover which is disposed over said boat cradle
10 portion, said canopy portion having a plurality of engagement members which confine said movable canopy portion to movement in a substantially vertical direction; and

at least one cable and pulley system having a cable and a pair of pulleys, wherein said pair of pulleys are rotatably
15 mounted to a unique one of said vertical support members and wherein said cable is looped around said pair of pulleys and is effective to interconnect said movable canopy portion to said boat cradle portion.

12. The boatlift assembly of claim 11 wherein said cradle
20 portion and said movable canopy portion are coupled to said cable on opposite sides of said looped cable.

13. The boatlift assembly of claim 12 wherein said cradle
portion and said movable canopy portion are coupled to said cable a distance apart equal to one-half the length of said
25 cable.

14. The boatlift assembly of claim 12 wherein said plurality of vertical support members are four vertical support members.

15. The boatlift assembly of claim 14 wherein said cradle
5 portion and said movable canopy portion each include four sliding sheave portions.

16. The boatlift assembly of claim 15 wherein a unique one of said four cradle portion sheave portions is concentrically mounted around a unique one of said vertical support members.

10 17. The boatlift assembly of claim 12 further comprising a plurality vertical canopy support members which are each parallel to and proximate to a unique one of said plurality of vertical support members, wherein said movable canopy portion includes a plurality of sliding sheave portions which
15 are each concentrically mounted around a unique one of said vertical canopy support members.

18. A boatlift assembly comprising:

four vertical support members, wherein said support members each have a square cross-sectional area, said support
20 members being disposed relative to each other wherein two surfaces of each of said support members are each directed toward one of the other support members;

a cradle portion which is effective to lift a boat in a substantially vertical direction, wherein said cradle portion
25 includes four V-shaped wedges, each of which slidably engage

a unique one of said four support members along two surfaces of said square cross-sectional area;

a canopy portion which is disposed above said cradle portion and which includes four V-shaped wedges which each
5 slidably engage a unique one of said four support members along the two surfaces of said support member which are opposite to said two surfaces which are slidably engaged with said cradle portion; and

a raising and lowering assembly which couples said
10 canopy portion to said cradle portion, effective to lower said canopy portion when said cradle portion is raised and to raise said canopy portion when said cradle portion is lowered.

19. The boatlift assembly of claim 18 wherein each of said
15 V-shaped wedges include at least one roller bearing assembly to reduce frictional resistance as said cradle portion and said canopy portion are raised and lowered.

20. The boatlift assembly of claim 18 wherein each of said
20 V-shaped wedges have plastic sliding surfaces which abuttingly engage said vertical support members.